THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

Three important paintings by two 19th century American masters, Winslow Homer and Raphaelle Peale, have come to the Cleveland Museum of Art on extended loan from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia.

The paintings -- one of Homer's most dramatic works, The Fox Hunt, and a pair of small still lives by Peale, Apples and Fox Grapes and Fox Grapes and Peaches -- presently are installed in the Museum's American painting galleries on the second floor.

"We feel particularly fortunate to have these pictures in Cleveland," says William Talbot, associate curator of painting at the Cleveland Museum. "The two still lives are small gems painted in 1815 by Peale, one of the earliest and most important American painters of this subject."

"The Homer," Mr. Talbot continues, "is a masterpiece of intense observation and powerful design. The subject -- black crows, driven by starvation during a bitter winter, attacking a red fox -- is a striking depiction of confrontation and survival in the animal world, a theme which long fascinated Homer. We are delighted to exhibit it with our own very different Homer pictures of Civil War soldiers and the seacoast of Maine."

The Fox Hunt was acquired in 1894 by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the oldest institution of art in the United States, and has been displayed continuously in their galleries since that time.

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It comes to Cleveland now with the two Peales while the Academy's historic building, completed in time for the nation's centennial in 1876, is being restored for the bicentennial celebrations of 1976.

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